

said, "If anyone could survive something like this, it would be Bill." On February 2 Bill returned home to celebrate his birthday with his family, friends, and a community that has rallied around him. His story is remarkable and should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Bill's heroism was recently recognized by the Glendale Fire Department as they honored him with the medal of valor. This week he is being recognized with the outstanding performance award from the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Truly these accolades are long overdue to a man who has been a model civil servant, community volunteer, and family man for many years. I am proud to salute Bill and his service to our community.

HUMANITARIAN AID—MOSCOW,
RUSSIA

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in a day and age where responsibility is shirked and leisure is honored over discipline, I would like to commend to you 14 young men who have shouldered responsibility beyond their years. These men served as Ambassadors of good will and friendship to the city of Moscow, Russia, under the direct invitation and authority of the Moscow Department of Education, between July 19 and September 3, 1996, as a part of Operation Flexibility 96-2. During this time they were involved in community assistance, demolition, construction, renovation projects, and meeting the basic needs of those around them. Their work and influence has not gone unnoticed by the Russian authorities, and indeed, the rest of the world, as they have been acclaimed and invited to several States and nations to continue the same tradition of service. The lessons and character that they are developing through their constant ministry, has and will continue to affect the lives of those they serve and meet in a positive manner.

Seth Campbell (ID), Andrew Cope (SC), Paul Elliott (WY), Ryan Gearhart (OK), Robert Myer (FL), Timothy Rogers (NY), David Servideo (VA), Adam Shelley (MO), Michael Shoemaker (IN), Scott Westendorf (OR), Brian Wicker (AZ), Matthew Yordy (IN), Joshua Meals (TN), Joshua Tanner (MI).

SUPPORT FOR ENDING ABUSE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN CNMI

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, one of the major newspapers of the Pacific region has added its highly influential support to efforts to end the well-documented pattern of systematic human rights and labor abuses in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI]. I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues this editorial from the April 25, 1997, Pacific Daily News, a newspaper based in Guam with widespread circulation both in the Pacific and the United States.

The article, "Plans to Strip CNMI of its Labor, Immigration Authority Not Surprising," supports legislation I recently introduced with nearly 40 of our colleagues to bring immigration and minimum wage policies in the CNMI under Federal jurisdiction. H.R. 1450 also would require that goods made in the CNMI be labeled "Made in USA" only if all U.S. labor laws were adhered to in the manufacture of the goods.

Contrary to promises by the CNMI government to crack down on continuing labor and human rights abuses, the government has actually rolled back worker protections. Just last week, the CNMI governor announced that he will seek to repeal current law that would have provided a 15-cent increase in the existing subminimum wage for the garment and construction industry—an increase that would at least have brought the wages of these workers into conformity with other industries. The lowest paid workers in America, these foreign laborers—and especially the women—work long hours, are often denied overtime wages, live and work in unsanitary and unhealthy conditions, and face physical and mental abuse from employers.

The editorial strongly states "If even a fraction of the numerous allegations of tolerance for illegal and immoral recruiting practices, human rights abuses and uncontrolled immigration are true, the CNMI deserves to be censured." Based on information contained in a report recently released by the Resources Committee, Economic Miracle or Economic Mirage, this threshold is easily met.

The Pacific Daily News editorial articulates the concerns of many Members of Congress, religious and human rights organizations, labor unions, and U.S. citizens, when it notes that if the CNMI government and local businesses "want to benefit from America's reputation, then they need to subscribe to the principles that founded this nation."

The article follows:

[From the Pacific Daily News, Apr. 25, 1997]

PLANS TO STRIP CNMI OF ITS LABOR,
IMMIGRATION AUTHORITY NOT SURPRISING

If U.S. Congressman George Miller has his way, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas will be stripped of its power to control immigration, set its own labor standards or sell goods with the label "Made in the USA."

That announcement should not come as a surprise, because U.S. lawmakers and federal officials who have oversight of the commonwealth's affairs have threatened to do that for several years because of continued reports of abuse of these powers.

Besides curtailing CNMI immigration and labor powers, Miller has written legislation that will force the Saipan government to increase its minimum wage—something that Northern Marianas leaders have been reluctant to enact.

For years the commonwealth has been the subject of numerous investigations and scathing criticism about indiscriminately importing thousands of alien workers to fill low-paying jobs—frequently described as sweat shops.

Even with repeated promises from CNMI leaders to comply with federal demands to clamp down on admitted abuses, Miller isn't buying that anymore.

Along with his bill, Miller will release a 21-page report that details "systematic labor, human rights and immigration abuses in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and attempts to shield these abuses from public scrutiny."

If Miller, who is the senior-ranking Democrat on the House Resources Committee, gets the support he needs, this may be the end of the line for unchecked control of immigration and labor in the Northern Marianas.

If even a fraction of the numerous allegations of tolerance for illegal and immoral recruiting practices, human rights abuses and uncontrolled immigration are true, the CNMI deserves to be censured.

There must be competitive balance for states and territories that comply with federal rules. And it's not right that foreign workers are treated so shabbily while someone else profits.

If the CNMI government and businesses that indulge in this practice want to benefit from America's reputation, then they need to subscribe to the principles that founded this nation.

Otherwise, sew a label on every garment that says: "Made in the CNMI by Low Paid Alien Workers."

RHAWNURST-BUSTLETON AMBU-
LANCE ASSOCIATION, INC., 35
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Rhawnhurst-Bustleton Ambulance Association. For over 35 years, the volunteers of the Ambulance Association have been unselfishly dedicated to helping their friends and neighbors in need.

The members of the Ambulance Association exemplify volunteerism. They give of themselves without compensation, and often put themselves at risk. Regardless of weather or hour of the day, volunteers transport members of the community to and from hospitals.

The contributions that the Rhawnhurst-Bustleton Ambulance Association makes to the neighborhood are vital and indispensable. In the case of an emergency, this group of people can be counted on to aid those in distress and need of care.

The volunteers of this community driven organization should be honored and congratulated on 35 years of service to their fellow citizens. I applaud them for the contributions they have made, and for the people they have helped. I wish them continued success in the future.

WIC

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Women, Infants, and Children [WIC] Nutrition Program. First, I want to say this is a program I wholeheartedly support. Second, I want to say I support it because it is very important to the health of this Nation, and specifically to the health of the 15th Congressional District, which I represent. I mean this literally.

You see, the WIC Nutrition Program is probably the single most successful of all Federal